



# SALEM POLICE DEPARTMENT NEWS RELEASE

## **CRIME ALERT**

For Immediate Release – August 7, 2009

### **SALEM POLICE INVESTIGATE WALLET THEFTS**

In the past 2 ½ weeks, the Salem Police Department has received 3 complaints of wallets being taken from elderly female customers in the Spartan Square Kroger grocery store that is located in the 1400 Block of West Main St.

In each case, the victim was shopping in the store when she was first approached and then distracted by the suspect, who is described below. The victims' wallets were discovered missing from their purses or shopping carts shortly thereafter.

The suspect is described as a black male, 30-35 years of age, 6' tall and medium build. The suspect was wearing the same black colored pants in two of the incidents, but he had on different shirts; in one a tan button-down shirt and in another a white T-Shirt.

#### **The incidents occurred on the following days:**

- **Tuesday, July 21, 2009 between 11:30am-12:45pm – victim was a 70-year-old Salem resident**
- **Tuesday, August 4, 2009 between 2:30pm-3:45pm- victim was a 78-year-old Salem resident**
- **Thursday, Aug 6, 2009 between 11:30am-12:45pm – victim was an 88-year-old Salem resident**

The Salem Police Department is currently investigating these incidents and is asking that anyone who has any information contact the Salem Police Department Detective Division at 540-375-3083 or the Roanoke Valley Crime Line at 540-344-8500.

The Salem Police Department would also like to remind customers to keep their wallets and purses in their possession at all times, and exercise caution when being approached by strangers in stores. If you observe a suspicious person, please alert store management and/or contact the Police Department.

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